

# TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in this Submission

10

Application Number	09/994,560
Filing Date	November 27, 2001
First Named Inventor	Harold L. Bennett
Group Art Unit	1714
Examiner Name	Cephia D. Toomer

Attorney Docket Number

31088-2

## ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

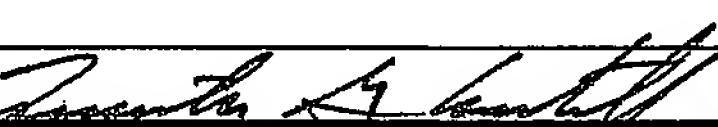
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers and recordation form	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (3) Redlined to show changes	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment Response to Final O.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> To Convert a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request (1 month)	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation, Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure (please identify below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	<input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application Revised Cover Sheet		
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.16 (l) and 1.52(c).		
	Remarks	

## SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm or Individual Name	Quentin G. Cantrell Woodard, Emhardt, Naughton, Moriarty & McNett
Signature	
Date	May 15, 2003

## Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to (703) 746-4176 on this date:

Typed or printed name	Quentin G. Cantrell
Signature	
Date	May 15, 2003

EXHIBIT

tables

A

# FEE TRANSMITTAL FOR FY 2003

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.  
Transmitted Via Facsimile to: 703-746-4176

Total Amount of Payment (\$)

55.00

<b>Complete if Known</b>																																																																																																																																																																																																										
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ADDITIONAL FEES</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Large Entity</th> <th colspan="2">Small Entity</th> <th rowspan="2">Fee Description</th> <th rowspan="2">Fee Paid</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> <th>Fee Code</th> <th>Fee (\$)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1051</td> <td>130</td> <td>2051</td> <td>65</td> <td>Surcharge – late filing fee or oath</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1052</td> <td>50</td> <td>2052</td> <td>25</td> <td>Surcharge – late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1053</td> <td>130</td> <td>1053</td> <td>130</td> <td>Non-English specification</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1812</td> <td>2,520</td> <td>1812</td> <td>2,520</td> <td>For filing a request for ex parte reexamination</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1804</td> <td>920*</td> <td>1804</td> <td>920*</td> <td>Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner's Action</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1805</td> <td>1,840*</td> <td>1805</td> 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hearing		1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding		1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive – unavoidable		1453	1,300	2453	650	Petition to revive – unintentional		1501	1,300	2501	650	Utility issue fee (or reissue)		1502	470	2502	235	Design issue fee		1503	630	2503	315	Plant issue fee		1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner		1807	50	1807	50	Petitions related to provisional applications		1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt		8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)		1809	750	2809	375	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))		1810	750	2810	375	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))		1801	750	2801	375	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)		1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application		Other Fee (specify) .....						* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid				SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)						55.00	
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**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above																																																																																																																																																																																																										

SUBMITTED BY						Complete (if applicable)	
Name (Print/Type)		Quentin G. Cantrell		Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	47,469	Telephone	(317) 634-3456
Signature						Date	May 15, 2003

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

# REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Atty. Docket No. 31088-2	Serial No. 09/994,560	
Applicant Harold L. Bennett		
Filing Date November 27, 2001	Group	1714
	Examiner	Cephia D. Toomer

**Entity**

<input type="checkbox"/> Large	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Small	Date Filed	November 27, 2001
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Applicant's attorney requests that the date for responding to the Office Action dated **January 15, 2003**

be extended for **one** month(s) to and including **May 15, 2003**

Large Entity	Fee	Small entity	Fee
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> mo. ext.	110	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>st</sup> mo. ext.	55
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup> mo. ext.	410	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>nd</sup> mo. ext.	205
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> mo. ext.	930	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 <sup>rd</sup> mo. ext.	465
<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup> mo. ext.	1,450	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <sup>th</sup> mo. ext.	725

The applicable fee is set forth above. The Patent and Trademark office is authorized to charge any deficiency or apply any overpayment credit to **Deposit Account No. 23-3030**.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



Quentin G. Cantrell

Reg. No. 47,469

Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP

Bank One Center Tower

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## First Class Mail

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Name of Registered Representative **Quentin G. Cantrell**

Signature  Date of Signature **May 15, 2003**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: )  
Harold L. Bennett ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No. 09/994,560 ) Cephia D. Toomer  
Filed: November 27, 2001 ) Group Art Unit 1714  
IMPROVED PROCESS FOR PRODUCTION )  
OF LOW TEMPERATURE CHAR )  
DURING PRODUCTION OF LOW )  
TEMPERATURE TARS ) May 15, 2003

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.115**

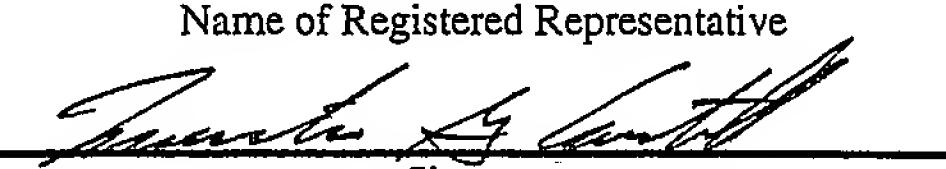
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 15, 2003, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks:

**INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application, and have been rejected or objected to in the Final Office Action. Applicant enters the following Amendment in order to place the Claims which the Examiner has identified as being directed to patentable subject matter into a condition for allowance.

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**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Presently amended.) A method for preparing carbon-derived char comprising the steps of:
  - (a) providing a carbonaceous precursor material;
  - (b) lowering the agglomeration value of the carbonaceous precursor material through the addition of inert organic matter;
  - (c) raising the percentage of volatiles in the carbonaceous precursor material to prevent agglomeration and caking;
  - (d) roasting the carbonaceous precursor material for between about 2 hours and about 4 hours in a multi-hearth roaster including a plurality of decks constructed of non-corrosive metal with high-heat transfer characteristics, with the ability to move a thin layer to material with rotating arms equipped with plow-shaped protrusions, in a substantially anaerobic environment at a roasting temperature between about 300 and 700 degrees Celsius; [and]
  - (e) cooling the resultant solid char[.];
  - (f) after step (d) and before step (e) extracting tar gases;
  - (g) before step (e) filtering the tar gases; and
  - (h) before step (e) washing the tar gases.

2. (Cancelled.)
3. (Cancelled.)
4. (Cancelled.)
5. (Cancelled.)
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [5 wherein the roaster further includes a plurality of decks constructed of non-corrosive metal with high-heat transfer characteristics,] wherein each deck includes floor supports and ceilings formed from thin-shelled reinforced concrete double-wall construction.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the roaster further includes a number of outside walls and wherein each outside wall has at least one port adapted to provide anaerobic access to the roaster.
8. (Presently Amended) The method of claim [2] 1 wherein step (f) includes the use of injected steam to assist in the removal of the tar and producer gases.
9. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of after step (a) and before step (d) adding a carbonate acceptor material to facilitate sulfur removal.
10. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein step (e) further includes depositing the resultant solid char in an inverted cone-shaped bin and injecting steam thereinto.

11. (Presently Amended.) A low-emission solid carbonaceous fuel produced by the following process steps:

- a) providing a carbonaceous precursor material;
- b) lowering the agglomeration value of the carbonaceous precursor material through the addition of inert organic matter;
- c) raising the percentage of volatiles in the carbonaceous precursor material to prevent agglomeration and caking;
- d) roasting the carbonaceous precursor material for between about 2 hours and about 4 hours in a multi-hearth roaster including a plurality of decks constructed of non-corrosive metal with high-heat transfer characteristics, with the ability to move a thin layer to material with rotating arms equipped with plow-shaped protrusions, in a substantially anaerobic environment at a roasting temperature between about 300 and 700 degrees Celsius; [and]
- e) cooling the resultant solid char[.];
- f) after step (d) and before step (e), extracting tar gases;
- g) before step (e), filtering the tar gases; and
- h) before step (e) washing the tar gases.

12. (Cancelled.)

13. (Cancelled.)

14. (Cancelled.)

15. (Cancelled.)

16. (Currently Amended.) The method of claim 11 [15 wherein the roaster further includes a plurality of decks constructed of non-corrosive metal with high-heat transfer characteristics,] wherein each deck includes floor supports and ceilings formed from thin-shelled reinforced concrete double-wall construction.
17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the roaster further includes a number of outside walls and wherein each outside wall has at least one port adapted to provide anaerobic access to the roaster.
18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [12] 11 wherein step (f) includes the use of injected steam to assist in the removal of the tar gases.
19. (Presently Amended) The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of after step (a) and before step (d) adding a carbonate acceptor material to facilitate sulfur removal.
20. The method of claim 11 wherein step (e) further includes depositing the resultant solid char in an inverted cone-shaped bin and injecting steam thereinto.
21. (Cancelled.)

## REMARKS

The office action identified Claims 6-8 and 16-18 as being directed to patentable subject matter, but objected to them as being dependent upon rejected claims.

Claim 1 has been re-written herein to include all of the limitations of Claim 6, with the exception of "each deck includes floor supports and ceilings formed from thin-shelled reinforced concrete double-wall construction." Because the plurality of decks is nowhere taught or suggested in the prior art, it is respectfully submitted that this limitation is not required to place Claim 1 in condition for allowance. This limitation has been retained in Claim 6, which now depends directly from Claim 1.

Claims 9 and 10 depend from Claim 1, and therefore include each of its limitations. It is therefore respectfully submitted that they are in a condition for allowance.

Claim 11 has been amended, analogously to Claim 1, to include all of the limitations of Claim 16, except "each deck includes floor supports and ceilings formed from thin-shelled reinforced concrete double-wall construction." Similarly, Claim 16 retains this limitation in a dependent claim. Also analogously, Claims 19 and 20 are believed to be in a condition for allowance because of the new limitations added herein to the claim from which they depend.

## CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that all claims are in a condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

No fees are believed to be necessary. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due, including statutory fees for extensions of time, to Deposit Account No. 23-3030, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By Quentin G. Cantrell

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Attn: Examiner Cephia D. Toomer  
Group Art 1714  
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DATE: May 15, 2003

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SPECIAL REMARKS: App No. -09/994,560 (Our Dkt No. 31088-2)

## Transmittal Form

## Fee Transmittal Form

## **Request For Extension Of Time**

## **Amendment Response to Final Office Action.**

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